EKOMEDIA

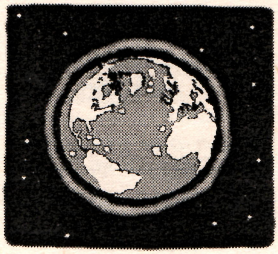
World-Wide News from Northern Norway No. 3 January 1992

ECOCIDE!

Multi-national oil industry with renewed attacks on the global environment

The multinational oil company Statoil is planning two big projects - Heidrun and Snøhvit (Snow-white) that will make the global greenhouse-effect accelerate considerably . In connection with the Heidrun gas field, Statoil and Conoco will build a metanol factory. The emissions of climate-destructive gas will be enormous. The metanol factory will release 450.000 kilotons of carbon dioxide (CO_2) and 1120 kilotons of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) every year. Norsk Hydro has also developed plans for a gas-electrical plant connected to the metanol factory. This will increase the environmental crisis even more.

This is a real declaration of war against the environment.



Die For Gas?

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Outside Finnmark, in the Barentz Sea, Statoil has located enormous amounts of natural gas. The company has recently presented a plan for a pipeline-system and a factory - in order to liquify natural gas (LNG).

The plans for utilization of natural gas from the Norwegian Sea and the Barentz Sea is a real declaration of war against the global environment. The multinational oil industry and Norwegian authorities have been responsible for an enormously increasing oil extraction during the last two decades.

This contributes considerably to the maintainance of the rich countries´imperialist resource - and energy regime - at the expence of the countries in the third world.

The oil industry has encountered heavy protest from several environmental organisations in Norway. Five organisations have formed a campaign against a metanol factory and a gas-electrical plant - with poor results so far. In November 1991, the Norwegian government agreed to the plans for building a metanol factory in Mid-Norway.

The Norwegian government, with Prime Minister Gro Harlem Brundtland has a special role in international environmental issues. Mrs. Brundtland was head of the UN comittee for environment and development, known as the Brundtland commission. All around the world the Norwegian Prime Minister is known as the Environment Minister of the world. Home in Norway this is far from reality.

Global net reduction

In the plan for a LNG-factory in Finnmark, Statoil claims that the gas from the Barentz Sea will promote a global net reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. Therefore, the "Snøhvit-project" is forwarded as a special environmental friendly project. The gas from the Barentz Sea is supposed to be exported to Italy and substitue oil energy there. However, nothing can stop Italy from increasing the energy consume and thereby the CO2-emissions. "-The "global net reduction" is a lie, and it is totally irrelevant as long as no agreements on CO2-limitations exists", environmental activists in Northern Norway state .

> ***The oil industry threatens indigenous people in Northern Norway - the Sami people and represent a clash with other sustainable cultures along the coast in the high north.***

Oil-Political complex

The most important oil companies in Norway - the multi-national´s Statoil and Norsk Hydro are in fact instruments of the official "Ecocide-policy" of the Norwegian government. Both companies are owned by the Norwegian state. The present Oil Minister Finn Kristensen is a former director of Statoil.

"Sustainable development"

The increasing extraction of oil and gas outside Norway is likely to be explained as a part of the resource regime of the rich countries at the expense of the poor countries in the world. The high-level oil extraction is an explicit assault on the environment and the poor people of the world. The oil industry also threatens indigenous people in Northern Norway - the Sami people and represent a clash with other sustainable cultures along the coast in the high north. This is a policy far from the predictions about "sustainable development" often heard from the Norwegian Prime Minister.

Resistance

The "Snøhvit"-project is supposed to be approved by Norwegian authorities during the winter 1992, and the popular resistance is growing. Within short time environmental activists in Norway will call for an international action against Statoil and Norwegian authorities.

"Terrorism" against Statoil

"Terrorists" attack the oil company Statoil´s office in Northern Norway. The director, Njål Gjedrem is taken as a hostage. Shots are fired in the hallway, and a couple of businesspeople from Norsk Hydro visiting the Statoil office are taken as hostages. Twenty-four hours later the "terrorists" are caught at an airport near by.

The "terrorists" demanded the release of political prisoners and that Statoil should reduce the intensity of oil extraction.

The police negotiated for hours with the "terrorists", and finally they got a car to drive to the nearest airport.

(From a press report from police training in Northern Norway, 26th. of October 1991)

Team Work ´92:

NATO on the Warpath!

The extensive NATO-exercise "Team Work ´92" will take place in Northern Norway in the middle of March 1992. Altoghether 20.000 soldiers will participate and they will bring with them 200 ships and 500 airplanes. This is a veritable warforce. The excercise will include at least two American aircraft carriers with planes and nuclear warheads. The NATO-forces met several protests, actions and blockades on port calls and when effecting landings in Team Work-exercises, both in 1988 and in 1990.

9 people sentenced for obstructing NATO-infrastructure

In October last year the construction of a new NATO-radar at the Njunis mountain in Northern Norway. When the construction work started high up in the mountains a group of environmental & peace activists immediately blocked the tunnel work. One year later, the actionists were punished with fines - US$ 300 to 500 each. The court claimed that the 9 people had been refusing to leave on police request several times on the 22th of October 1991. A few weeks after the blockade they were all fined, but most of them did not accept this decision from the local police. Then they were taken to court. Some of the actionist claimed that their action was an act of self-defence, and the court regarded this an extenuating circumstance.

NORWEGIAN ARMS TRADE NEWS

Norway is an active participant in international arms trade, both as seller and purchaser. Norwegian arms export goes to countries involved in wars. Oppressed in Latin-America and in Africa are met with arms produced in Norway.

Here are som recent contracts:

Purchases:

•*Norsk Forsvarsteknologi A/S* (Norwegian Defence Technology): Jamming equipment for F-16. Contract: US$ 5 million.

• *Hughes Information Systems:* Expansion of NATO´s control & information system in Norway. Contract: US$ 53 million. This is a part of the NATO infrastructure programme.

• *Loral Electro*: Optical Systems, USA: 500 tactical laser-exercise weapons for the army. Contract: US$ 2.5 million.

• *Siemens A/S*, Oslo: Equipment for deceiving electronic cencors. Contract: US$ 6 million.

• *Luftforsvarets Forsyningskommando* (Air Defence Supply Command): Modernization of 58 F-16 Aircrafts. Contract: US$ 330 million.

• *Siemens Nixdorf:* 2000 computer terminals for the army. Contract: US$ 30 million.

resistance

Harbour Blockade against the EC

On Sunday the 20th of October some thousands of fishers with 800 boats in Norway blocked ten major harbours along the coast. This was a protest against the EC demands in the negotiations with EFTA for a cooperation treaty.

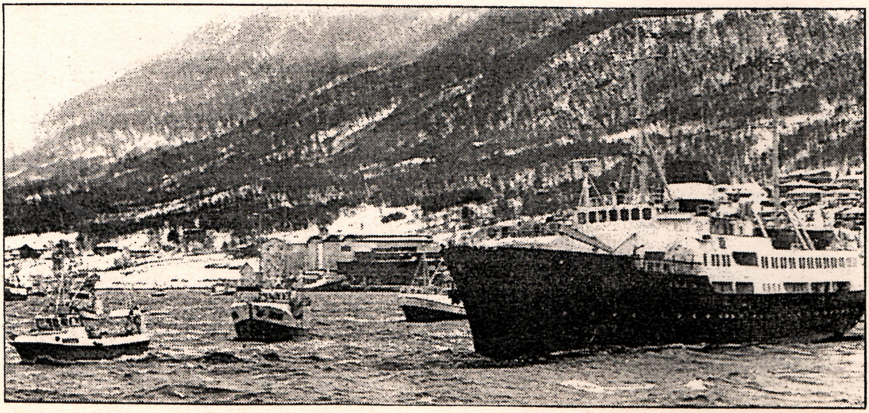
The EC Commision demands access to fish resources outside Norway, especcially cod. The fishers will not accept this, and regards the EC demands to be a serious attack on small communities along the coast of Norway.

"We are prepared to fight"

"-When the Norwegian coast fisher has to go on land because of the regulations, and is forbidden to go out with his boat and catch 100 kilos to feed his family, it is not acceptable to give away quotas to the EC", said the leader of the organisation of Norwegian fishers, Einar Hepsø. "-We love the coast and our homes. We are prepared to fight for this. It is our way of living, our culture, our history that is threatened", he said. The fishers also abolish market economy, because this will make the prices fall like what has happened with other raw materials like sugar & coffee from the third world. Neither will the fishers accept EC countries to buy and own fisherboats.

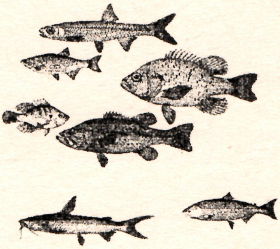
Success - but defeat

In Honningsvåg between 50 and 60 boats blocked the harbour from 18.00 in the afternoon. A ferry, the coastal steamer and other local traffic was obstructed. In Tysfjord 10 boats blocked the ferry connecton and caused a serious delay. In Bodø 70 boats closed the harbour effectively by forming a chain. They also put a steel wire across the harbour. Most places the fishers continued their actions against the EC next day, and som places the blockades were intensified. The harbour blockade was the most extensive mobilisation among Norwegian fishers in history, and the action was success. However, the fishers seem the ones paying for the EC-EFTA treaty, because the Norwegian Goverment has decided to offer EC-countries access to the fish resources in the high north.



To Stortinget (Norway´s Parliament):

"Here´s your quota!"



"On behalf of the common people in Northern Norway we have delievered exactly the quantum of fish we can offer as a quota for the EC-countries. We ask Stortinget to take care of the fish and hand it over to the EC-commision on first occasion.

One head of cod and five heads of coalfish (US: pollack) is what we can offer. We will not give more, and neither will the sea. For several decades the sea up in the high north has been plundered by the industrial fishery.

The greedy trawlers have swept with them both the fish and the vegetation on the bottom of the sea. More and more of the coast fishers have been forced on land, or have been forced upon minimal quotas.

These stinking fish heads from Karlsøy in Northern Norway is our protest, and our appeal to the Norwegian parliament to say NO to the suggested treaty between EFTA and EC.

The coast fishery is the only ecologically acceptable way of harvesting the resources in the sea here in the north. For thousands of years the coast population´s fishery has been corresponding to terms of the nature.

The ecological balance was not disturbed by fishery before the active fishing tools were taken into use, helped by extensive subisidies from Norwegian authorities.

We want to defend our coast communities, not only because they correspond to ecological terms, but because they are of great value for us living here. These stinking fish heads from Karlsøy in Northern Norway is our protest, and our appeal to the Norwegian parliament to say NO to the suggested treaty between EFTA and EC.

We will not accept that the fish, which has been a common resource and right, shall be offered for the dictatorship EC.

We will not accept that the fish, which has been a common resource and right, shall be offered for the dictatorship EC. We will not accept that the plundering of our resources and the dismantling of our societies that we experience continues."

Separatists in Northern Norway,
7th of November 1991.

resistance

Brought To Light

The USSR has dumped radioactive material into fishing zones for decades

Highly radioactive waste from Soviet naval vessels was dumped in unsafe leaky containers into shallow parts of the Barents and the Kara seas between 1964 and 1986. A member of the Supreme Soviet confirmed this on the 23th of September. In November Norwegian journalists revealed that the dumping took place until last summer.

Among the waste dumped at sea was a container with the damaged reactor core from the Lenin nuclear-powered ice-breaker. The Lenin is known to have suffered a serious reactor accident in 1966/67 and the reactor, still containing its highly radioactive and damaged nuclear fuel was dumped off the island of Novaya Zemlya in the early 1970´s.

Until now, Soviet participants at international fora such as the London Dumping Convention and the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) have denied that any disposal of radioactive waste at sea has ever occured.

Andrey Zolotkov, a Soviet People´s Deputy for the Murmansk Region on the Kola Peninsula has obtained documents showing that ships from the commercial fleet (Atomflot) in Murmansk were used to dump both civil and military nuclear waste between 1963 and 1986.

Map

A map was made available to Greenpeace showing where the dump sites are located in the Kara and the Barents Seas. Zolotkov said the containers used to dispose of the waste in the 1960´s and 1970´s were problematic because of their "floatability".

Documents have revealed that holes were cut in the containers "in order to ensure the guaranteed sinking of the containers". According to Zolotkov´s sources, in 1984, a container of nuclear waste was washed up on one of the shores of the Novaya Zemlya area. Radiation readings from the container reached 160 Roentgens per hour - a massive reading indicating that the container almost certainly contained highly-radioactive nuclear fuel. *The container was redumped in the same area.*

The dumping areas in the Kara and Barents Seas are very shallow - in many areas only tens of metres. The Barents Sea dump site is close to a major, active fishery including spawning grounds. *"Fish were caught exactly in places of elevated radioactivity,"* Mr. Zolotkov said.

Until last summer

In November 1991 Norwegian journalists revealed that the dumping not only occured in the 1960's and the 1970's. The leader of the office for radiation security, Aleksander Mikhailov stated that low-radioactive material from the Soviet North Fleet had been dumped in the Kara Sea. This information confirms the previous rumours about recent dumping of nuclear waste from the USSR. Now the military tries to find an other place for dumping, and it is expected that they will use the islands of Novaya Zemlya in the future. Mr. Mikhailov will neither confirm nor invalidate wether the dumpings still go on. He says that the dumping so far has been done in accordance with the Soviet laws, which allows the military dumping of nuclear waste.

The first inspections

The inspection last summer was the first carried out in history in the USSR. "- Our mission is to examine all activities accumulating nuclear waste in our area", says Mikhailov. The inspections last summer took place both at factories, ships, submarines, hospitals and other places. The main base of the Soviet North Fleet in Severomorsk and the world's largest submarine-base in Polijarnij were also inspected.

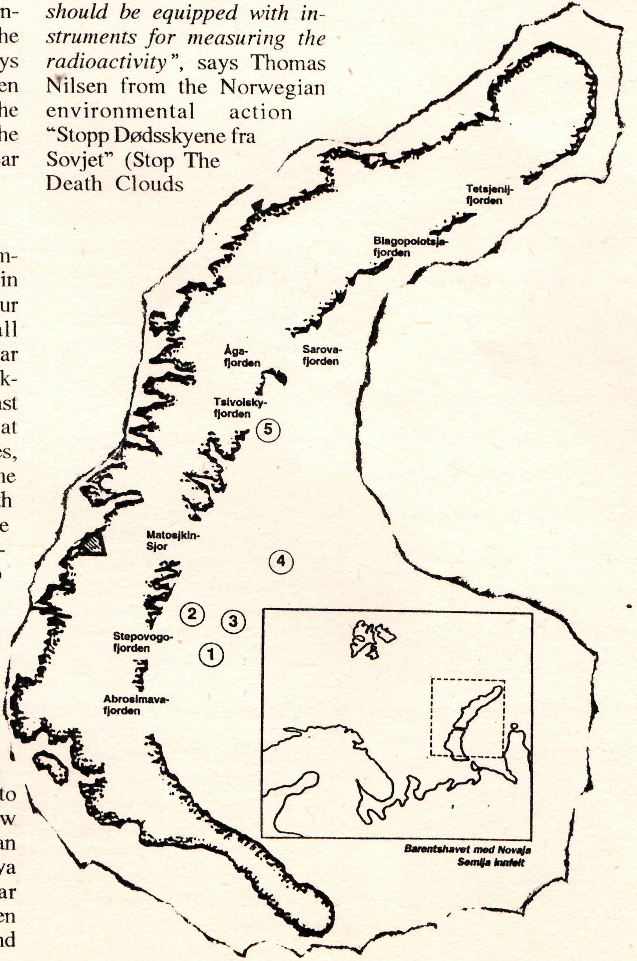
On the Kola peninsula there are more than 200 nuclear reactors. Today the nuclear waste is being stored on land and on ships in rural areas. After a couple of years, the waste is sent to other parts of the USSR. Now politicians in the USSR plan depositing the waste on Novaya Zem-lya. "- For one year nuclear test-bombing has been prohibited on the islands, and now the opportunities for nuclear waste depositing increases", says Aleksander Mikhailov. The depot is supposed to receive waste from the North Fleet, the ice-breakers and the nuclear power plants.

The top of an ice-berg

"-The information from Mikhailov is another verification that no one really knows how much nuclear waste the USSR has dumped in the polar seas. Therefore, we demand that Norwegian fisherboats should be equipped with instruments for measuring the radioactivity", says Thomas Nilsen from the Norwegian environmental action "Stopp Dødsskyene fra Sovjet" (Stop The Death Clouds from the Soviet Union). Thomas Nilsen fears that the dumping of radioactive material will turn into a catastrophe for Norwegian fishers.

Solid nuclear waste dumped in the Kara sea:

1) 850 barrels at 350 meters
2) 250 barrels at 250 meters
3) 350 barrels at 350 meters
4) 250 barrels at 350 meters
5) 400 barrels at 11-200 meters



Barentshavet med Novaja Semlja innfelt

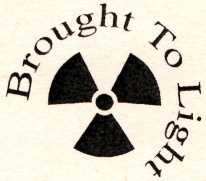
Murmansk/USSR: Nuclear Alert Measures Uncovered

In the end of September last year previously secret held alert measures for the naval base in the city Murmansk in Russia was uncovered. The catastrophe plan exposed a dramatic scenario for a big area, in case of nuclear accidents. The estimate was that 50-60 people would die immediately, and that 26.000 people would be exposed to lethal doses as a consequense of a reactor accident at the harbour of Murmansk.

The local authorities in Murmansk were left in a state of anqiety after the Chernobyl accident in 1986. This made them work out alert measures for their own city. The experiences from Chernobyl were used in calculations, and it is expected that official Soviet scenarios for catastropes were used as a basis for the plans. The Russian North Fleet in the Murmansk-region is enormous. At the Kola peninsula more than 220 nuclear reactors on ships exist. Murmansk is the homeport of the Russian nuclear powered ice-breakers. The main base for the North Fleet is situated in Severomorsk, and this is the home port for more than 115 nuclear powered ships.

Several Accidents

Since 1967 the Soviet Union has experienced 16 accidents with nuclear powered submarines, and 3 of these still lie on the bottom of the sea. In 1989 a submarine of the Mike-class was wrecked outside Bjørnøya in the Barentz Sea. This submarine lies at 1200 meters below sea level. In 1989 another accident took place. A fire started in a submarine of the Echo-class when cruising in the Nor-wegian Sea, and the vessel was dragged to Murmansk to be mended. These incidents show that the fear for serious nuclear accidents in the northerna areas, and especially in Murmansk, is in the state of reason.



Thousands would die

According to the alert measures in Murmansk, about 26.000 people would experience permanent health impairment caused by large amounts of radiation. Far more people would be exposed to a cloud containing radioactive iodine. The Greenpeace consultant engineer on nuclear issues, John Large, estimates that 30% of the 26.000 people would die within short time. This calculation is based on models from the western world.

Realistic Plans

The experiences from Chernobyl seems to have given the local authorities in Murmansk a veritable chock. Therefore the alert measures in Murmansk ar fare more realistic than similar plans in the US and in Europe. At the British base for nuclear powered submarines in Scotland it is calculated with a danger for health consequensens within a radius of only 550 meters from a crashing reactor.

(Source: "Framtid i Nord"("Future in The North") -ecopolitical newspaper in Northern Norway)

Tromsø/Norway: The authorities plan dumping of reactors

As the alert measures for Murmansk City was revealed in September last year, questions were asked about the Norwegian plans in case of nuclear accidents. Like the USSR and all other countries with nuclear capable or nuclear powered ships in their harbours, Norwegian authorites face a basic problem - how to handle a reactor being wrecked. - It´s possible that we will sink a ship when accidents occur, says the director of the State Nuclear Inspection in Norway ,Knut Gussgard.

Every year different kinds of NATO-ships call Norwegian harbours. Norwegian authorites are prepared to take in tow a wrecked ship out in the sea and sink it. "-But this is not the worst scenario to be considered, says Knut Gussgard. He says that one should also consider the possibility that a reactor placed on a submarine *explodes* when cruising at surface. This will cause a veritable nuclear blow-out at Norwegian ports.

In September Knut Gussgard said to the Northern Norwegian newspaper "Nordlys" that Norway should hammer out alert measures based on the *worst thinkable case*. This statement can be understood as a confession that there is a real danger for nuclear accidents along the coast of Norway - and not only in the USSR as often claimed.

The problems surrounding reactors and nuclear weapons in Norwegian harbours is topical. During the last years several *floating nuclear plants* have visited Norway, and most of them have met local protests and demonstrations. During the Team Work ´88 Excercise at least 6 nuclear capable or nuclear powered NATO-ships made port calls in Norway, and this is ordinary in connection with other NATO-excercises.

NATO´s submarine-base in the north

Close by Tromsø "*Olavsvern orlogsstasjon*" is situated. This is one of NATO´s major bases for submarines excercising in the northern areas. On the 21st of August 1991 the American nuclear carrying submarine USS Ray made port call to this base in a rock outside Tromsø.

Previously Olavsvern has received several allied nuclear-submarines, among them the British HMS Splendid. At "Olavsvern" one is also prepared to *tow out* ships with wrecked reactors.

"*-We have not tried this before, and therefore we do not know exactly how long time it will take*", says lieutenant Fritz Waage. We expect the towing to take nearly two hours. *When serious accidents occur, we will only tow the submarine out on the fiord,* " says Waage.

Sink

"-If a submarine is towed out in the sea and the reactor is still out of control, we would probably sink it", Waage adds. "-I guess the alternatives are limited", he says. He says that evacuation plans are worked out for the population in the base area, but there are no plans for the 45.000 inhabitants of Tromsø - only 12 kilometers away from "Olavsvern".

Brought To Light

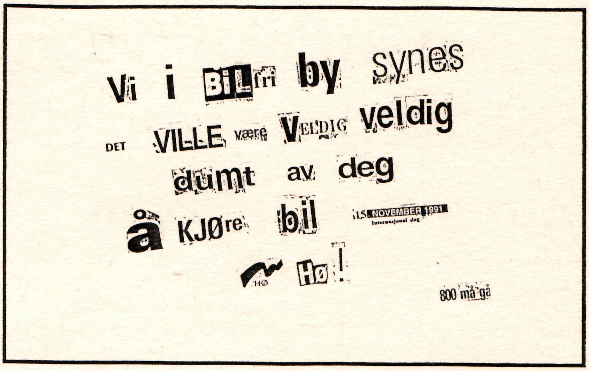
BILFRI BY

The Green Street Café

On Friday 11th of October the traffic action group "Bilfri By" ("Car-Free Inner-City") stormed out in the streets in Tromsø (Northern Norway) with tables and coffee-cups and made their instant-café in the middle of the street.

They chose one of the busiest streets in Tromsø, called "Green Street" and decided immediately to call their café "The Green Street Café". For more than one hour people in Tromsø were able to have a rest and a nice cup of coffee, while all the car drivers had to wait in anger.

The aim with Green Street Café was to give people a chance to sit down and have a talk about the future and about the traffic development in Tromsø and in the rest of the world. "Bilfri By" states that *"pigs can fly, the earth is flat & economical growth solves the environmental problems"*.



Vi i BILfri by synes

DET VILLE være VELDIG veldig

dumt av deg

å KJØre bil 15 NOVEMBER 1991 Internasjonal dag

HØ Hø!

800 må gå

We, the activists in "Bilfri By" ("Car-Free Inner City") think it would be very, very stupid of you to drive your car on the 15th of November - International Day.

From a "Bilfri By"-leaflet on the occasion of the International Traffic Action Day on the 15th of November 1991.

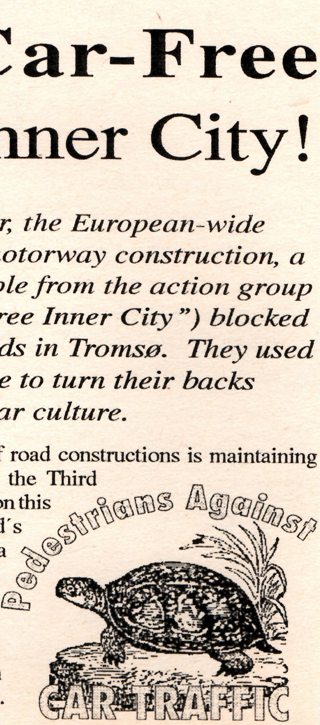
resistance

Car-Free Inner City!

On 15th of November, the European-wide action day against motorway construction, a huge number of people from the action group "Bilfri By" ("Car-Free Inner City") blocked several strategic roads in Tromsø. They used posters urging people to turn their backs against the private car culture.

-The western priority of road constructions is maintaining the resource regime against the Third World. 1/4 of the population on this planet use 3/4 of the world´s total resources, says a spokesperson for "Bilfri By".

In a press release, "Bilfri By" demands a car-free inner-city in Tromsø, and say they want a serious debate on qualities of the future society.



Agenda

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIONS

Alliance of Northern Peoples for Environment and Development

In October 1991 an "Alliance" of northern people for solidarity & development was formed in San Sebastian/ Donostia:

Why an alliance? -The leaders of the world are now busily preparing the next century. They meet at different places like G7 for the richest 7 industrial countries on the earth, The World Bank, in GATT negotiations and in the UN security council to decide on the future for all of us.

They are dominating the preparations for UNCED, the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, to be held in Brazil next summer.

In a time of a growing north-south conflict they also want the public to celebrate the 500-year anniversary of the Columbus "discovery" of America in 1492. By the introduction of the European Single Market the same year, a new great power is emerging with capacity to fulfill 500 years of European traditions in world dominance.

Peoples movements in North, South, East and West are reacting on this. Groups all over the planet are trying to put a pressure on UNCED, working to unmask the 500 years celebration and to question the present development in the EC and the rest of the world.

The "Alliance for Northern Peoples on Environment and Development" is an attempt to make movements with similar ideas support each other. Our common idea is that the rich northern countries have the main responsibility for the global crisis and that the present development model must be changed. The North is using most of the resources and causing most of the environmental destruction. But in the pre-parations for UNCED, the leaders of the rich countries have not shown any willingness to reduce the high energy and resource consumption in their countries. They are also responsible for the widening gap between rich and poor and the situation where millions of people in spite of the richness in the world have to starve. In order to protest against this and to promote alternatives, the Alliance proposes a series of activities the coming year. By using different kinds of actions, involving various movements and focus both on local, national and global problems, we hope to build a political climate strengthening popular movements and force politicians to take action. *We want to plant ideas and seeds for a world without exploitation of other peoples or destruction of the nature.*

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Please, send info etc. from your area to: Ekomedia, P.O. Box 98, N-9160 VANNVÅG, NORWAY. Fax: +47 83 49334.

Keep the grassroot alive & kicking!

Agenda

INTERNATIONAL CAMPAIGNS AND ACTIONS

1492-1992:

500 Years of Resistance

In connection with Columbus anniversary in 1992, where the official Europe will celebrate that the American continent was "discovered" 500 years ago, a coordination group has been formed. The Coordination group will focus the native Americans´ historical views on the "discovery".

News

What has happened in America so far?

The 2nd continental meeting for "500 Years of indian, black and popular resistance" took place in Guatemala in October 1991. The first meeting of this kind took place in Ecuador in 1989. The next meeting will be in Nicaragua.

Present at the meeting in Guatemala were 27 different countries. The meeting was very succesful, and it was a powerful manifestation against the governmental terror against indigenous people in Guatemala. Rigoberta Menchu, the peasant leader who has been forced into exile, went back to Guate-mala for the first time for many years. The meeting ended with a demonstration through the streets in Quezaltenango where more than 30.000 people participated.

Decisions

Important decisions made at the meeting were:

- To propose Rigoberta Menchu for the Nobel Peace Price in 1992 for her organisatorical work in Guatemala through CUC - the peasants´ unity comittee and her international work to defend her people.
- Agreement on peaceful strikes in all capitals on the American continent between 7th and 12th of October 1992.
- A critical document on history was written. The document stresses human rights, Indian rights, democracy, soil & peace for Indians, self determination, colonialism, unity between peasants and Indians. The document will be important in the further struggle.

Latin America

The indigenous people of Ecuador has decided to boycott the president election in 1992. The Indian organisation CONAIE has announced that they will obstruct the placing of ballot boxes in Indian areas. According to CONAIE, more than one third of the population is represented through the organisation, and the citizens in Ecuador are obliged to vote. Therefore a boycott will be very effective. CONAIE has also decided to work for an "Indian parliament".

The march to Potosi, Bolivia: October 1992 is meant to be an "October without Borders". Marches will be arranged to Potosi from Caracas, Punto Arenas, Cordoba, Palmares, Asuncion, Manaus, Cartagena. Groups from the whole continent is involved in the march toward the city that supplied Europe with silver for several centuries, left 8 million people dead and tapped off the wealth of Bolivia.

In Brazil, president Fernando Collor de Mello recently reserved 9.4 million hectare of the rainforest for the Yanomami-indians. This has lead to a massive campaign against the Yanomamis - from tradesmen and landowners. Especially the owner of the paper O´Globo is running a heavy campaign. Collor de Mello made himself even more unpopular on the 27th. of November when he reserved an area at the same size as Denmark for the indian tribe Kayapoens.

Europe

Action days are planned on the 19th. of April and the 11th of October 1992. The first date will contain marches for human rights. The 19th of April is the opening date for EXPO-92 in Sevilla. The 11th. of October is the last day in freedom for native Americans. European-wide activities are planned. In Spain one will campaign against the EXPO-92 exhibition in Sevilla.

Norway

In Norway a coordination group for 500 years of restis-tance is formed. This group´s aim is to support Indian nations struggle for survival and self de-termination, and the Indian moblilisation against the official Columbus-celebrations.

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